19

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1875.

ANNUAL REPORT

ON

THE HEALTH

OF THE

WHITWORTH URBAN DISTRICT

DURING 1902.

—BY—

ALEXANDER WELSH, M.D., WHITWORTH,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Whitworth:

H. O. HOWARD, PRINTER AND STATIONER, MARKET STREET.

The Health Committee

Consists of the following Members:

Chairman—MR. WILLIAM LAW.

Messrs. B. F. STUTTARD, J.P.

JOSEPH RUDMAN,

JAMES WILKINSON

RICHARD JACKSON,

HERBERT WHITWORTH,

ALGERNON A. MERCER,

ROBERT BAMFORD.

WHITWORTH URBAN DISTRICT.

Medical Officer's Annual Report for the year 1902.

To the Chairman and Councillors of the Whitworth Urban District.

GENTLEMEN:

I have the honour to submit to your consideration the Annual Health Report of the Whitworth Urban District.

By Section 14 of the duties of the Medical Officer of Health, as defined by the general order of the Local Government Board, it is stated that the annual report of such officer shall comprise:

1st. A summary of action taken during the year for preventing the spread of disease.

2nd. An account of the sanitary state of the district generally, at the end of the year.

3rd. An account of the enquiries made by such officer, as to conditions injurious to health existing in the district, and of the proceedings relating to such conditions, in which he has taken part, or advised, under the Public Health Act, 1875.

4th. An account of the supervision exercised by him, or, on his advice, over places and houses which the sanitary authority have power to regulate, together with the action, if any, taken in regard to offensive trades, to factories, and to workshops.

5th. Tabulated statement of the sickness and mortality within the district, classified according to diseases, ages and localities.

In addition to the above, Section 132 of the Factory and Workshops Act requires that

"The Medical Officer of Health of every District Council shall, in his annual report to them, report specifically on the administration of this Act in workshops and workplaces, and he shall send a copy of his annual report, or so much of it as deals with this subject, to the Secretary of State."

The area of the Whitworth Urban District is 6,200 acres.

The estimated population for the year is 9,649.

BIRTHS.

During the year 218 births were registered. Males, 107, Females 111, total 218; giving a birth rate of 22·5 per thousand. The rates for the previous ten years being :—

1892.....23·0	1897.....22·7
1893.....24·1	1898.....24·2
1894.....23·3	1899.....22·8
1895.....20·4	1900.....24·9
1896.....21·5	1901.....20 8

1902.....22·5

The following table gives the births in the respective Wards:

Healey	Whitworth	Facit	Shawforth
32	87	52	47
	1901		
23	75	59	43

The natural increase of the population by excess of births over deaths for the year is 71; last year the increase was 35.

DEATHS.

The mortality returns for the year are most satisfactory, and bear favourable comparison with previous years.

During the year 147 deaths were registered, viz: Males 64, Females 83; giving a death rate of 15·2 per 1000. The death rate for preceding years being as under:

1892.....16·7	1897.....16·7
1893.....18·1	1898.....16·9
1894.....14·3	1899.....17·4
1895.....18·4	1900.....19·6
1896.....18·0	1901.....17·2

1902.....15·2

Table of Deaths in respective Wards:

Healey	Whitworth	Facit	Shawforth
19	69	30	29
For the previous year:			
26	59	33	47

The following table gives the mortality from all causes, at the subjoined ages:

Deaths under 1 year		22	30
" above 1 " and under 5 years		8	
" " 5 " " 15 "		7	117
" " 15 " " 25 "		10	
" " 25 " " 65 "		62	
" " 65 " and upwards		38	
		147	147

INFANT MORTALITY.

By this is meant the proportion of deaths of infants under one year, to the births registered, and is expressed as being so many per 1000 births.

During the year 22 deaths under one year were registered, a decrease of 8 on the previous year. This equals an infantile mortality of 100·9 per thousand births.

The mortality for the preceding years 1890 and 1891 being 150 and 173·9 respectively.

Recognising the importance of infant feeding and considering that infant mortality represented by human breast milk, is very small in comparison with that of other farinaceous foods, it is significant that starch is never found in the milk of any mammal, and therefore not necessary as far as nature is concerned, for the purposes of nutrition in the infant. In ordinary feeding, especially in the early months of life, such foods are unnecessary and often highly injurious.

The following table shows the number of deaths under one year for the previous ten years:

1892.....34	1897.....48
1893.....42	1898.....30
1894.....29	1899.....30
1895.....37	1900.....44
1896.....39	1901.....30

1902.....22.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

The Zymotic death rate for the year is again very satisfactory, viz: ·41 per 1000, and the following table gives the rate for previous years:—

1892.....1·2	1897.....1·58
1893.....1·8	1898.....1·1
1894.....0·51	1899. .....0·5
1895.....1·4	1900.....1·8
1896... .....2·2	1901.....·31

1902.....·41

The Zymotic rate varies much, and may be looked upon as somewhat misleading if taken as an expression of the sanitary condition of a district.

The diseases under this class are spread chiefly by the too early association of the recently sick with the healthy—by a too early return to school after sickness of a doubtful, or infectious nature—and to a great extent by the popular—but dangerous—opinion held by many, that infants must have infantile diseases, without previous exposure to infection, and that they might as well have the disease early, as later on in life. However

there is every reason to believe that the public are being educated to appreciate more fully the necessity of isolation and other means of preventing the spread of these diseases.

It is therefore very desirable that parents, teachers, and local authorities, should recognise their responsibilities in this matter.

It has not been necessary to close any of the schools in the district, during the year.

Eighteen notifications were received during the year of infectious, or epidemic diseases and have been tabulated as follows :—1 from Croup in Healey Ward. From Erysipelas, 5 in Whitworth Ward, 2 in Facit, and 2 in Shawforth Wards. From Scarlatina, 1 in Whitworth, 2 in Facit and 1 in Shawforth Wards. From Enteric, 1 in Healey, 2 in Whitworth and 1 in Shawforth Wards.

SMALL POX.

We have been most fortunate in not having to report the occurrence of any case of Small Pox although co-terminus with centres of infection at Bacup and and Rochdale.

MEASLES.

During the 1st quarter of the year this disease was slightly prevalent in the Healey District but did not assume an epidemic form in any of the other wards.

One case which proved fatal occurred in the month of April in the Whitworth Ward, the child being under 5 years of age.

SCARLATINA.

Four cases have been notified during the year:

Two, in January, one in Healey Ward and one in Facit Ward; one in February in Whitworth Ward; and one in May in Shawforth Ward.

This compares favourably with the number notified last year, viz: 25.

WHOOPING COUGH.

During the year we have not received any notification of this disease. Last year there was one death in March in the Whitworth Ward.

CROUP.

It is again most satisfactory to have to report the non-prevalence of this disease in the district.

DIPHTHERIA.

One case was notified in February which did not prove fatal.

TYPHOID OR ENTERIC FEVER.

During the year four cases have been notified:

1	in	March	in	Shawforth	Ward
1	,,	April	,,	Healey	,,
2	,,	October	,,	Whitworth	,,

the case in Healey Ward proved fatal.

There is thus a decrease of 3 notifications and 2 deaths on the previous year.

The Shawforth case is marked in my notes as being doubtful. The other cases could not be considered as due to either water pollution or to milk contamination. The matter was placed in the hands of the Inspector and his investigations should be embodied in his report for the year.

ERYSIPELAS.

Nine cases have been notified for the year this being a decrease on the previous year of 13. The cases were notified as follows: 2 in February, 2 in April, 1 in May, 2 in November, and 2 in December.

EPIDEMIC INFLUENZA.

One fatal case registered in August in the Facit Ward.

PUERPERAL FEVER.

None.

DIARRHŒA.

Two deaths have been registered from Diarrhœa both occurring in Healey Ward, one, aged 86 years, in the month of July, and one 10 months in December.

PHTHISIS.

Fourteen deaths have been registered during the year, being a decrease of 3 on the previous year.

The following table shows the number of cases, and the Wards during the two years 1901 and 1902:

Healey	3	3
Whitworth	7	5
Facit	4	3
Shawforth	3	3
	17	14

and the following table gives the number of cases for the preceding 10 years:

1892.....19	1897.....10
1893.....10	1898.....19
1894.....13	1899.....13
1895.....14	1900.....13
1896..... 7	1901.....17

1902.....14

and the rate per 1000 is equal to 1·4.

In connection with the disease too much importance cannot be given to the vital necessity of thorough and pure ventilation in our sleeping apartments. We cannot have too much fresh air in our rooms, the danger to avoid being unnecessary currents of misdirected air, which with due caution can be easily prevented.

BRONCHITIS AND PNEUMONIA.

Diseases of the respiratory organs show also a marked decrease for the year, viz: 29, which gives a mortality equal to 3·1 per 1000.

The comparative number of cases, and the Wards

in which they occur are given below in the following table for the years:

	1901	1902
Healey Ward	6	2
Whitworth ,,	14	13
Facit	7	4
Shawforth	11	10
	38	29

The following table also gives the number of deaths from Respiratory diseases for the previous ten years:

1891.....95	1897.....45
1892.....40	1898.....25
1893.....43	1899.....54
1894.....35	1900.....48
1895.....45	1901.....38
1896.....37	1902.....29

HEART DISEASE.

There is a marked increase in the number of deaths from Heart Disease during the year, viz: 18, the number for the year 1901 being 13. The incidence of the increase taking place chiefly between the ages 25 and 65, 5 being registered under 25 years; the remaining 13 being over that age. The number and Wards in which the cases occur being as under for the years:

	1901	1902
Healey Ward	4	3
Whitworth ,,	4	8
Facit ,,	4	5
Shawforth ,,	1	2
	13	18

and the following table gives the number of deaths since 1891 :

1891	8	1897	13
1892	8	1898	14
1893	7	1899	13
1894	5	1900	11
1895	11	1901	13
1896	7	1902	18

SANITARY MATTERS.

General and special inspection as to the sanitary condition of the district is carried out periodically on conditions affecting the public health.

HOUSE ACCOMMODATION.

The general character of the houses is satisfactory, being fairly well constructed, ventilated, drained, &c. In some districts however much delapidated property might be pulled down and replaced with property built on more modern principles. As there is still evidence of over-crowding in the district I take this opportunity of suggesting the building of houses with additional and ample bed room accommodation.

EXCREMENT DISPOSAL

Is still on the " Pail System." All new property however is put on the Water Carriage system and has, so far, given satisfactory results.

WATER SUPPLY

May be considered very good, and is supplied chiefly by the Rochdale Corporation. Some of our other water supplies are however liable to intermittent pollution, especially during heavy rains, and are therefore not to be considered altogether free from danger as chemical analysis does not show the elements that convey disease, but merely shows the presence of certain organic and inorganic matter in solution.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

For some years we have been able to report that it has not been necessary to make use of our Cottage Hospital. It is now with satisfaction, that in the midst of an epidemic of Small Pox, we can repeat this statement. Structural alterations have been made, and additional accommodation found for emergencies. Your officers have therefore been relieved of much anxiety during the present epidemic.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES

Have received special supervision during the year.

A full report of the investigations and the necessary alterations required are given in tabular form by Mr. Biker, the Sanitary Inspector and are herewith enclosed.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT.

As previously stated Section 132 of the above Act, requires that workshops in the future shall be under the

administration of the Sanitary Authority, &c. Special attention is to be given to the following details: Sufficient air space—ventilation, lighting and heating, conveyance of infection by certain industries, means of escape in cases of fire, &c.

I have made special visitation along with Mr. Cordingley, of the different workplaces in the district; so far our inspection has been quite satisfactory.

ANALYSIS.

One sample of water has been submitted for analysis during the year, and reported upon favourably.

GENERAL REMARKS.

Altogether the Report for the year is one of the most favourable I have had to submit for years. With the exception of the returns from "Heart Disease" the mortality of the different diseases shows a considerable decrease, the infantile mortality being conspicuously marked in this respect. In March last a member of the Health Committee requested the Inspector of Nuisances to furnish reports of the work done by him during the month.

I have further to congratulate the Council, on their decision, after patient years of waiting and solicitation, to appoint a Nuisance Inspector. The work of an appointment holding the offices of Surveyor and Nuisance Inspector must necessarily suffer either in one department, or another, and I have no hesitation in

saying that the work of our Surveyor in past years has been of such a nature as to demand an amount of time altogether out of proportion to the real necessities of the duties falling on him also as Inspector of Nuisances.

I therefore anticipate an amount of practical work in the future which will fully justify the wisdom of your action in separating the appointments.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ALEXANDER WELSH, M.D.

Sanitary Inspector's Report.

Year ending December 31st, 1902.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council of Whitworth.

Gentlemen:

I have pleasure in submitting for your information my annual report, which more particularly relates to important matters brought under your notice in my monthly reports to your Health Committee. I am glad to report that early in the year you instructed me to carry out a modification of my Tonacliffe Nightsoil Receiving Scheme, which was completed in January of last year, at a cost including the construction of flushing chamber and alteration of pump position, of about £120. The scheme has been in constant use since completion, receiving from 20 to 24 loads of nightsoil per week, and works quite satisfactory. Although as I reported to your committee, in the hot summer such large quantities of crude nightsoil is delivered at the outfall works on the first four days of the week, as to at times seriously interfere with the proper purification of the sewage, and I again strongly recommend your Authority at the earliest possible date to lay down a similar scheme with or without modifications at Leavengreave, for which I have prepared the necessary plans, sanction has also been obtained from the Local Government Board to carry out some portion of the scheme under loan, costing £120. In May last I submitted to your Committee a tabulated

report on the Slaughter-houses within the district, which gives a summary of my recommendations which were adopted by you. On the 16th of June a complaint was received as to the condition of the water supply to certain cottages in Church Street, Whitworth, alleging the water to be polluted by cow water. Your Medical Officer of Health and myself made constant examinations of the whole source of supply, which was found in stormy weather only to be discoloured. On August 7th I took a sample of the water complained of after a very stormy night (as the occupiers informed me, at such times the water was very bad) and sent the same to the Rochdale Borough Analyst, and he reports that the sample was good and fit for domestic purposes. Your Medical Officer of Health however and myself are not satisfied that the supply is entirely free from contamination owing to the flow being conveyed for some considerable distance in what is termed a land or subsoil drain, which of course receives water from the agricultural land throughout its whole length. The service should certainly be conveyed from its source in proper socket jointed iron pipes, consequently the matter is still under attention.

Arrangements have been made with a local scavenger at Healey Stones to attend to the removal of House Refuse, to property from which your Committee had complaints.

I must commend the Committee for their instructions to proprietors and builders that plans for new houses must, where practicable, be shown for the W.C's to be on the Water Carriage system, which is certainly the very best remedy for the nightsoil treatment difficulty.

The Nuisance removal department has been conducted (especially since the new foreman commenced his

duties) with fewer complaints than usual.

During the year the Isolation Hospital has been improved, both as regards accommodation and structure, there being now, ready for immediate use 7 beds in place of 5 originally.

During the summer months, upon your instructions, I have had a staff of workmen engaged in further completing the Outfall Works Scheme, and am able to report that the whole of the amended scheme prepared by me and approved by the Local Government Board for which additional borrowing powers to the extent of £1250 were obtained, has almost been completed. I am pleased to be in a position to report that in my opinion (after visits to the outfall works of several similar authorities of the size of Whitworth) that very few such authorities can boast of so complete and efficient a scheme as is shown by the reports of the Joint Rivers Committee for throughout the year (although as I have before mentioned the whole of the nightsoil is received in its crude state at the works) our samples have invariably been classed in the effluents. Once during the year our sample being placed first on the list.

The lodging-houses, slaughter-houses and cow-sheds have as usual been systematically inspected, and no complaints have been received from this source.

The private house to house connections have again occupied considerable attention.

T. BIKER,

Associate of the Sanitary Institute.

ADDENDA.

Factory and Workshops Act, 1901.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council of Whitworth.

GENTLEMEN:

Since my appointment I have visited the district according to instructions issued under the Factory and Workshops Act, 1901.

The chief industries of the district are those of Cotton and Stone, and the work of inspection has been confined to the other trades carried on by Dressmakers, Cloggers, Cabinet-makers, &c. In addition we have also two public Bake-houses, and one Tripe boiling establishment.

All these have been visited by me since my appointment in November, and I am pleased to state that they comply with the Regulations of the Factory and Workshops Act, being generally well ventilated, lighted and of sufficient cubic air space.

I am,

Yours obediently,

JNO. J. CORDINGLEY, C.S.I.,

TABLE I.

WHITWORTH URBAN DISTRICT.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1902 and Previous Years.

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	Births.		Total Deaths Register in the District.				Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Non-residents registered in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	Nett Deaths at all Ages belonging to the District.	
				Under 1 Year of Age		At all Ages.						
		Number.	Rate *	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births registered	Number.	Rate *				Number.	Rate. *
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1892.	9,766	225	23·0	34	151	164	16·7					
1893.	9,766	236	24·1	42	177·9	177	18·1					
1894.	9,766	228	23·3	29	127·1	140	14·3					
1895.	10,100	207	20·4	37	178·7	186	18·4					
1896.	10,100	218	21·5	39	178·8	182	18·0					
1897.	10,100	230	22·7	48	208·6	179	16·7					
1898.	10,100	245	24·2	30	122·4	171	16·7					
1899.	10,150	232	22·8	30	129·3	177	17·4					
1900.	10,150	253	24·9	44	173·9	200	19·6					
1901.	9,578	200	20·1	30	150·0	165	17·2					
Averages for years 1892-1901.	9957·6	227·4	22·7	36·3	159·7	174·1	17·3					
1902.	9,649	218	22·5	22	100·9	147	15·2					

* Rates in Columns 4, 8, and 13 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water). 6,200.

Total population at all ages 9,578.

Number of inhabited houses, 2,325.

Average number of persons per house, 4·1.

At Census of 1901.

TABLE II.

WHITWORTH URBAN DISTRICT.

Vital Statistics of separate Localities in 1902 and previous years.

Names of Localities.	HEALEY WARD.				WHITWORTH WARD.				FACIT WARD.				SHAWFORTH WARD.			
Year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.
1892 ...																
1893 ...																
1894 ...																
1895 ...																
1896 ...																
1897 ...																
1898 ...																
1899 ...																
1900 ...																
1901 ...	1690	23	26	2	3432	75	59	13	2705	59	33	4	1751	43	47	11
1902 ...	1703	32	19	2	3450	87	69	10	2727	52	30	7	1769	47	29	3

TABLE III.

WHITWORTH URBAN DISTRICT.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1902.

Notifiable Disease.	Cases notified in Whole District.							Total Cases notified in each Locality.				No. of Cases removed to Hospital from each Locality.			
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.													
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and upwards	Healey	Whitworth.	Facit.	Shawforth.	Healey.	Whitworth.	Facit.	Shawforth.
Small-pox															
Cholera															
Diphtheria									1						
Membranous croup ...															
Erysipelas									5	2	2				
Scarlet fever									1	2	1				
Typhus fever															
Enteric fever								1	2		1				
Relapsing fever															
Continued fever															
Puerperal fever															
Plague															
Totals								1	9	4	4				

TABLE IV.

WHITWORTH URBAN DISTRICT.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1902.

Causes of Death.	Deaths in or belonging to whole District at subjoined ages.							Deaths in or belonging to Localities (at all Ages.)							Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District
	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards.	Healey	Whitworth	Facit	Shawforth				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
Small-pox															
Measles	1		1						1						
Scarlet fever															
Whooping-cough ...															
Diphtheria and membranous croup															
Croup															
Fever — Typhus ...															
Fever — Enteric ...	1					1		1							
Fever — Other continued															
Epidemic Influenza ...	1					1				1					
Cholera															
Plague															
Diarrhœa	2	1					1	2							
Enteritis															
Puerperal fever ...															
Erysipelas															
Other septic diseases ...	1					1			1						
Phthisis...	14	1			2	11		3	5	3	3				
Other tubercular diseases	5	3		2				1	2	1	1				
Cancer, malignant disease	3					3		1	1	1					
Bronchitis	17	4			1	5	7	1	8	2	6				
Pneumonia	12		2		1	7	2	1	5	2	4				
Pleurisy															
Other diseases of Respiratory organs															
Alcoholism / Cirrhosis of liver ...															
Venereal diseases ...															
Premature birth ...															
Diseases and accidents of parturition															
Heart disease	18	1		2	2	9	4	3	8	4	3				
Accidents	5		1		1	3		2	2	1					
Suicides...															
All other causes ...	67	12	4	3	3	21	24	4	36	15	12				
All causes	147	22	8	7	10	62	38	19	69	30	29				